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ENGLISH SECTS. A HISTORY OF NONCONFORMITY. W. B. SELBIE. (The Home University Library of Modern Knowledge). Henry Holt & Co. Pp. 256. 50 cents.

In this small volume the learned Principal of Mansfield College has presented the salient facts of Nonconformist history with great clearness and a high degree of impartiality. The space at his disposal has made impossible any extensive characterization of leaders or elaborate discussion of movements, but the reader who comes to these pages will gain from them a distinct impression of the aims, vicissitudes, and present significance of these important elements in English religious life. As a brief introductory survey the work is likely to be useful.

WILLISTON WALKER.

YALE UNIVERSITY.

PRESENT DAY THEOLOGY. WASHINGTON GLADDEN. McClelland & Co. Columbus, Ohio. Pp. 220.

Stirred by obnoxious revival services conducted by a theologically illiterate evangelist, Dr. Gladden preached in his own church in Columbus a series of week-day sermons designed to overcome evil with good by a clear presentation of the views now entertained by leading preachers and theologians in different Protestant communions. Of Congregationalists, he quotes frequently from President King of Oberlin and Professor Stevens of Yale; of Presbyterians, from Professor Brown of Union; of Baptists, from Professor Clarke of Colgate; and of Episcopalians, from Phillips Brooks—with the manifest purpose of showing that the theology he advocates is no individual whimsey but is really representative of modern religious thinking. The sermons were hastily prepared and hurriedly printed, but they have a movement and fervor which would probably have been lacking in more studied and deliberate productions. If any one doubts whether the so-called new theology is preachable, he may be confidently commended to this volume of theology at pulpit temperature.

W. W. FENN.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

THE FIRST PRINCIPLES OF EVOLUTION. S. HERBERT, M.D. The Macmillan Company. 1913. Pp. 346. \$2.00.

It was a well-known geologist who said of Professor Dana's *Manual of Geology* that it contained "all that the Lord had ever made," but that "it would take the Lord himself to find it." Dr. Herbert's

book, however, while exceptionally broad in scope, is admirably arranged. It presents evolutionary thought from Heraclitus to Bergson and the various aspects of evolution from atomic to cosmic, from inorganic to "superorganic" evolution, all in admirable and logical order. In his preface the author states that the book is the outcome of a series of lectures given to a class of workingmen "and others." It must not be inferred, however, that the lecturer has "stooped" to his audience. While the book is intentionally "thoroughly superficial," Dr. Herbert has not hesitated to raise some of the more abstruse and controversial problems of speculative science.

To present "the problem of evolution comprehensively in all its aspects"—which the author states to be his purpose in writing the book—is a task of no small magnitude and one which few biologists would be willing to undertake. Dr. Herbert has been remarkably successful, notwithstanding the enormous difficulty of condensing so large a mass of material. While such a work is of necessity largely one of compilation, the writer seems at all times the master of his material. That at times the treatment of important problems should be fragmentary and disconnected is perhaps inevitable. The broad scope of the volume is indicated by the following summary: Evolution is discussed under three general headings—inorganic, organic, and superorganic. Under inorganic evolution the writer describes the hypothetical changes in the stellar universe and in the solar system. The alternative views of Kant-LaPlace and of Chamberlin-Moulton are well stated and the difficulties involved in the acceptance of either admitted. The stages in the geological history of the earth are then sketched briefly. Even atomic evolution, including the electronic theory of matter, receives consideration. The spontaneous generation of living substance is postulated, and Pflüger's theory of the origin of proteid substance suggested.

Organic evolution receives a somewhat conventional treatment, summarizing the various kinds of evidence which have convinced morphologists of the fact of the physical evolution of organisms. This is followed by a statement of the various hypotheses brought forward to explain evolution in terms of mechanism—the explanations of Darwin, Lamarck, DeVries, and their successors. Sexual selection is not ruled out of court. But the author concludes that biologists have still to discover "an unknown factor" in order to explain the progressive adaptation of organisms to their environment. Some theologians will derive much comfort from this admission of an open-minded biologist. But it is not likely, however,

that Dr. Herbert would be willing to admit that we are yet driven to assume a psychical or "vitalistic," much less a supernatural factor, in organic evolution.

Under superorganic evolution he discusses the phenomena of psychical, social, and religious (theological) evolution. Here as elsewhere in the book the treatment is consistently naturalistic. Moral evolution in animals and man receives a treatment similar to that given to the problem of the physical and racial origin of man. The book closes with a presentation of the evolutionary philosophy of Bergson. Dr. Herbert really appears to understand Bergson. A very valuable bibliography is added. The glossary of scientific terms will help the lay reader.

HERBERT V. NEAL.

TUFTS COLLEGE.

HYMNS OF THE EARLY CHURCH. Translated by Rev. JOHN BROWNLIE, D.D.  
Morgan & Scott. London. 1913. Pp. 202.

This book contains about a hundred hymns "translated from Greek and Latin sources; together with translations from a later period; centos and suggestions from the Greek; and several original pieces."

Such a book, to be of value, should do one of two things: it should introduce us to a body of hymns hitherto known only to the student, with opportunities for careful comparison with the originals; or, if the author departs from the ideal of a close translation, it should offer free and beautiful renderings, making available for actual use in modern churches hymns hitherto not rendered into English, or but ill translated. Unfortunately, Dr. Brownlie's volume does neither. It is often impossible to say whether one is reading an "original piece" or a translation, for the originals are indicated in the most casual fashion. Sometimes the first line of the Greek or Latin is given, but elsewhere the reader is left to guess for himself the source whence Dr. Brownlie has drawn his inspiration. Nor have many of these translations such merit as to lead to their introduction for their own sake into modern hymn-books. There are, it is true, occasional striking lines and good stanzas, but the high level is seldom long maintained and there are not infrequent evidences of careless writing.

The volume illustrates, as others of its kind have done before, the difficulty of such translation. The ancient hymns represent a type of thought and a mode of expression far removed from our own, and not to be acclimated save by a writer who can add con-